

- (c) whether Government have ordered any enquiry in this regard; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Based on similar complaints received earlier, the Government has set up a Physical Verification Committee in 1996 for physical and scientific verification of art objects of National Museum. Based on a Public Interest Litigation filed in 1997 before it, the Hon'ble High Court, Delhi had directed that the reports of this Committee may be submitted to it regularly in sealed cover. Thus the Hon'ble High Court is monitoring this aspect closely and regularly. The reports of the Physical Verification Committee are being submitted to the Hon'ble Court regularly and in facts recently in December 2000 the Hon'ble Court has disposed of the above petition with the direction to the Committee to submit its reports to it regularly in sealed cover.

**Funds Sought by Government of Madhya Pradesh for Tourism Projects in the State**

†1951. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Madhya Pradesh has sought funds from Central Government for the proposed schemes like tourist reception centre Bhopal, Public Facility, Dhoopgarh, Pachmarhi, Expansion of tourists complex, Plash, Bhopal and repairing-cum-development of banks of river Narmada in Hoshangabad;

(b) if so, to what extent the funds have been sought and the funds likely to be sanctioned by Government for these proposed schemes; and

(c) by when the announcement made by the Union Minister for

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†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

[8 August, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

Tourism and Culture in Hoshangabad for repair of the banks of river Narmada at Hoshangabad would be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) Development and promotion of tourist places/centres is primarily undertaken by the States/Union Territories themselves. However, Department of Tourism, Government of India, provides central financial assistance on the basis of projects prioritised annually in consultation with them. For the year 2001-2002, the following projects insofar as Madhya Pradesh Government is concerned have been prioritised;

| Amount Prioritised (Rs. in lakhs)               |       |
|---|-------|
| (1) Tourist Reception Centre, Bhopal            | 78.40 |
| (2) Public facility at Dhoopgarh, Pachmarhi     | 40.00 |
| (3) Expansion of tourist complex Palash, Bhopal | 38.40 |

No detailed project proposal for development of banks of river Narmada in Hoshangabad was made by the State Government at the time of the prioritisation meeting.

(b) On receipt of project proposals, complete in all respect, these are processed on inter-se-priority basis and funds are released after approval by the competent authority and subject to availability.

(c) The Government of Madhya Pradesh has not proposed inclusion of above project in prioritisation for 2001-2002, as announced by Minister of Tourism and Culture in Hoshangabad. However, once the Govt. of Madhya Pradesh accepts the above project as additional prioritisation, funds could be released subject to availability.